



US Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Veterinary Services  
New England Area Office

## Frequently Asked Questions For Pet Export

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Veterinary Services

New England Area  
P.O. Box 787  
160 Worcester-  
Providence Rd  
Suite #20  
Sutton MA 01590

(508)865-1421  
Fax: (508)865-9317

- 1. I am traveling to another country. What will I need to take my pet outside of the United States?*
- 2. Does one health certificate work in all countries?*
- 3. How do I obtain a health certificate for my pet?*
- 4. How do I find an accredited veterinarian? What is an accredited veterinarian?*
- 5. Do countries require that the veterinarian be "USDA Approved"?*
- 6. How do I get my pet's health certificate stamped by the USDA? Do I mail my certificate or make an appointment in person?*
- 7. Do I bring my pet with me to the USDA APHIS office when I get the health certificate stamped/ endorsed?*
- 8. How much does it cost to have the health certificate stamped by USDA APHIS VS?*
- 9. How long does it take to stamp a health certificate or when can I expect my certificate to be returned?*
- 10. What do I need to take my dog/cat to Canada or Mexico?*
- 11. What do I need to take my pet to another state within the United States?*
- 12. What do I need to bring a dog or cat into the United States?*

*1. I am traveling to another country. What will I need to take my pet outside of the United States?*

Each country sets its own rules for the entry of cats and dogs from the United States. In order for your pet to enter a country outside the US, you will need to meet the requirements of that destination country. Some foreign countries have provided us with their entry requirements. These requirements are listed at the following website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/>

If the country you are traveling to is not listed at this website, we suggest you contact that country's consulate for more information. Consulate information may be found at <http://embassy.org/embassies/>

**NOTE:** In addition, your pet must meet the requirements of the airline on which you will be traveling. Please contact your airline for more information on their requirements. Allow yourself enough time to complete all of the required steps. Requirements vary greatly between countries. Plan ahead. It is the exporter's responsibility to meet all of the requirements.



Safeguarding American Agriculture

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Federal Relay Service  
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)  
1-800-877-8339

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *2. Does one health certificate work in all countries?*

Each country sets its own rules for the entry of cats and dogs from the United States. In order for your pet to enter a country outside the US, you will need to meet the requirements of that destination country. This includes using the health certificate that they require. The member countries of the European Union, Switzerland, and Turkey require a specific health certificate that may be found at the website listed under question 1. As of January 1, 2007, the member states of the European Union are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Most South American countries ask you to use the US origin international health certificate, APHIS Form 7001. Your veterinarian's office should have this form. Health requirements and certificates are apt to change at any time, so it is important that you make sure to check for the most current regulations before traveling with your pet.

### *3. How do I obtain a health certificate for my pet?*

You must have your pet examined by a veterinarian. If the pet meets the requirements of the country you are traveling to, then he or she will issue the health certificate. Please contact your veterinarian to obtain a correct and properly completed export health certificate. Some blank health certificates are available at the above listed website. Others are available at your veterinarian's office. Please contact our office via email or by telephone if you have questions on which health certificate to use.

### *4. Do countries require that the veterinarian be accredited or "USDA Approved"? What is an accredited veterinarian?*

An accredited veterinarian has been approved by our agency and is authorized, among other things, to issue export health certificates. Many countries, including all of the countries in Europe, require the veterinarian who examines your animal and issues the health certificate to be federally accredited. Please contact our office to verify if your veterinarian is accredited.

### *5. How do I find an accredited veterinarian?*

Inquire with your pet's veterinarian to verify they are accredited prior to obtaining an export health certificate. If your regular veterinarian is not accredited, please contact our office via email or call (508) 865-1421 and we will assist you in finding an accredited veterinarian in your area. You can also visit <https://vsps.aphis.usda.gov/vsps/public/CRLogin.do> to find a veterinarian in your area who has agreed to have their accreditation status posted on the web.

### *6. How do I get my pet's health certificate stamped by the USDA? Do I mail my certificate or make an appointment in person?*

The "stamping" process is actually called federal endorsement. Endorsement is a final review process, where we verify the information on the certificate is accurate and ensures that the pet is meeting the requirements of the destination country. Many countries

## Frequently Asked Questions

require the federal government to stamp or endorse the health certificate prior to the pet's departure.

To save you time and effort, we prefer that you send your documents and your check or money order to our office. You may send them by regular mail or overnight mail (FedEx, UPS, etc.). Please enclose a pre-addressed, pre-paid return method for overnight mail. We recommend that you consider using a tracking method with the mail carrier to verify that the documents have arrived at their destination.

Please documents to:  
USDA, APHIS, VS  
Attn: Export DEPT  
160 Worcester-Providence Turnpike  
Sutton Square Plaza, Suite 20  
Sutton, MA 01590

If you choose not to mail the documents, please contact our office for an appointment.

*7. Do I bring my pet with me to the USDA APHIS office when I get the health certificate stamped/ endorsed?*

No, you do not bring your pet to our office. We only need to see the health certificate and supporting documents.

*8. How much does it cost to have the health certificate stamped by USDA APHIS VS?*

The fee for stamping/endorsement varies by the number of animals traveling and by the number of tests required for the health certificate. Therefore, we ask that you email or call our office for more information.

*9. How long does it take to stamp a health certificate/ when can I expect my certificate to be returned?*

In our busy office, we process approximately 200 certificates a week. The correctly completed health certificates are usually processed and mailed within 48 hours of receipt. If your health certificate is not accurate or if it is the incorrect form, you and/or your veterinarian will be informed of the errors. We will provide you guidance on how to complete the correct form accurately.

*10. What do I need to take my dog cat to Canada or Mexico?*

Generally, these countries require proof of current rabies vaccination, i.e. a rabies certificate and a health certificate signed by your veterinarian. This health certificate does not have to be stamped/ endorsed by our office. The Canadian import requirements for pets may be found at

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ca\\_cn.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ca_cn.pdf) and  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ca\\_fe.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ca_fe.pdf)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *11. What do I need to take my pet to another state within the United States?*

USDA does not set requirements for the movement of pets across state line. The requirements are actually set by each individual state. Therefore, you should contact the State Veterinarian of the state to which you are traveling. They will provide you with the requirements. Below are two helpful websites for interstate movement of pets.

State Veterinarian Contact Information:

<http://www.usaha.org/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

State Import Requirements:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/>

### *12. What do I need to bring a dog or cat into the United States?*

USDA is not the lead agency in regulating the entry of cats and dogs into the United States. The state of destination and the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) regulate these animal entries. Generally, the animal will need a valid rabies vaccination and a health certificate. We ask you to please contact the state veterinarian in your state of destination and review the information at the following CDC website for more specific information.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm>